



MIDDLESEX COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HARROW YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE & HARROW SOCCER 7'S COMBINATION



21 August 2009

Dear Colleague,

The FA's RESPECT Programme – Season 2009 / 2010

As you are all aware, The FA's RESPECT programme was successfully launched last season in both the Harrow Youth Football League and the Harrow Soccer 7's Combination.

This note serves to explain, in detail, how the programme will develop and operate this coming season; which is entirely consistent with that set out at the respective launches in late 2008 and early 2009.

Codes of Conduct

All clubs are required to include the respective Codes (updated for 2009/2010) as part of their annual membership process for your players, parents/guardians and managers/coaches. We would also ask all clubs to ensure that the Codes appear on your club website.

From a League / Combination perspective, the Codes are fully incorporated into each member Club's application / affiliation forms for this coming season, as well as on all the player registration forms. As a result, we shall not require any further process to be followed in this regard.

A small number of teams have yet to complete the forms from last season – and all have been advised in writing. These teams will be required to complete the forms and submit them to the League / Combination before they may play any matches this coming season.

Designated Spectator Areas

From this season, ALL teams playing in the League / Combination must ensure that the pitch on which they play their home matches includes either:

- (i) an approved pitch barrier; or
- (ii) cones; or
- (iii) pitch markings.

These areas effectively 'draw a line' to which parents and spectators should not cross. Research has shown this to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials.

If you are using the Respect barriers, endorsed by The FA, the preferred arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on one side of the pitch for spectators and parents/carers from both teams to stand behind. This allows the coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players get instructions from just one side of the pitch.

Clubs may prefer an alternative form of marking a Designated Spectators' Area, but they must ensure that this is safe for both the spectators and the players. We recommend that clubs obtain formal agreement from the facility/pitch provider about which method of marking is most suitable for the pitch, before beginning any work or buying any new equipment. The safety of the players, officials and spectators is paramount.

The Spectators' Area should start two metres from the touchline on both sides of the pitch. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement, in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made. No spectators or coaches should stand behind the goal line at either end of the pitch.

The FA Designated Spectator barriers can be purchased from www.respectzone.com.

Middlesex County FA currently holds a small stock of approved Barriers which can be purchased for £37.38; these will be sold on a first come first serve basis. If you would like to purchase one or more sets then please email: leigh.o'connor@middlesexfa.com or by phone on 07956 953085.

Captains

We would ask all clubs to ensure that the captain is aware of his responsibilities and that he wears the FA RESPECT armband at all games. New armbands will be distributed to all clubs prior to the commencement of the season.

Referees Managing the Game

We have trained a large majority of the referees in Middlesex on the RESPECT programme, with further training planned for the first half of the new season. The aim of the training is to make referees aware of the programme and how they can work with the team captains and coaches to manage the game.

From this season, sanctions will be imposed if people breach the Codes of Conduct, this will be done through the Middlesex CFA and League / Combination disciplinary procedures.

Other Initiatives

- ✓ We would ask that, similar as to what happens at all Premier/Football League matches, all players shake hands with each other both prior to and at the conclusion of all matches in the League/Combination. We would ask that team managers / coaches take responsibility to ensure that this takes place.
- ✓ Match result cards have been amended this season to include details on the RESPECT programme. We would ask all club officials to ensure that the match result forms are fully completed and sent to the League / Combination within two days of the match being played.
- ✓ Similarly, we have amended Referee report cards, such that our Registered Referees also report on the RESPECT programme for each match that they officiate in the League.
- ✓ The FA have provided further posters for clubs to be able to pin-up and/or use in their club pitch venues as considered appropriate. These will be distributed to all clubs before the season commences.
- ✓ The FA has also provided guidance for clubs that may wish to run a RESPECT evening (or other event) for parents. In addition, there are DVD's available for all clubs that explain some more background to the programme and provide a useful tool to facilitate discussion between managers, coaches, parents, club officials and players.

We do, however, realise that this doesn't cover all areas of the Codes of Conduct, as a number of them are internal matters which need to be dealt with by you as clubs. We will be issuing guidance on potential internal sanctions and support in implementing these as the new season kicks off.

Alongside this, there is also a series of Educational resources available to clubs on the www.TheFA.com. One of them being a free online Respect Parent Guide to highlight examples of poor behaviour and, more importantly, how it can be improved. To see the Guide for parents and carers please visit: www.thefa.com/respectguide

Finally, the RESPECT programme is a long-term programme which aims to address poor behaviour in grassroots football. Revisions, updates and new elements to the programme will be continually rolled out over the coming seasons, as well as increased monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the programme is being delivered efficiently and effectively.

Further information will be provided at the first club meetings of the season:

- Harrow Youth Football League – Monday 7th September at Kodak Sports Club, Harrow View, Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 6QQ.
- Harrow Soccer 7's Combination – Thursday 24th September at Broadfields Sports Club, Broadfields, off Headstone Lane, Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 6NN.

Yours sincerely

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Middlesex County FA

Andy Lowe
Chairman
**Harrow Youth Football League/
Harrow Soccer 7's Combination**

